

## Message Text

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14-12

ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SMI-01 USIA-15 L-02 /035 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND:MM

APPROVED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND

SMI/SITES:QHHOGLUND SUBS

EUR/EE:JMDENNIS INFO

USIA/IEE:RCOONROD INFO

CU/ARTS:PSOLMSEN INFO

----- 077570

R 271452Z PEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

UNCLAS STATE 044119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT:THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT

REF: SOFIA 2335, STATE 282580

1. SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TRAVELING EXHIBITION SERVICE (SITES) HAS REVIEWED BULGARIAN CONDITIONS FOR SHOWING THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT IN UK AND FRANCE AND HAS PREPARED PRELIMINARY DRAFT CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SITES COULD UNDERTAKE TO SHOW EXHIBIT IN THE U.S. SITES EMPHASIZES THAT ITS DRAFT CONDITIONS ARE PRELIMINARY, RATHER THAN FINAL, AND ARE INTENDED TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR DETERMINING WHETHER AGREEMENT WITH THE BULGARIANS IS POSSIBLE AND AS BASIS FOR WORKING OUT MORE SPECIFIC, FINAL AGREEMENT. IF BULGARIANS CAN ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE, TERMS OUTLINED, SITES BELIEVES IT WOULD HAVE BASIS FOR BRINGING EXHIBIT TO THE U.S. UNDER ITS "INTERNATIONAL SALUTE TO THE STATES" PROGRAM BEGINNING 1976. DRAFT CONDITIONS FOLLOW:

A. "THE EXHIBITION "THRACIAN TREASURES FROM BULGARIA" WILL  
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BE DELIVERED TO THE AMERICAN INSTITUTION DESIGNATED FIRST ON THE SCHEDULED TOUR IN THE SPRING OF 1976 FOLLOWING THE SHOWING IN GREAT BRITAIN (DATE TO BE DETERMINED)."

B. "THE EXHIBITION WILL BE ON LOAN TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TRAVELING EXHIBITION SERVICE (SITES) FOR A PERIOD OF 1-2 YEARS, BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST U.S. LOCATION IN 1976. THE EXHIBITION WILL BE SEEN IN AT LEAST SIX MUSEUMS FOR A PERIOD OF SIX WEEKS AT EACH LOCATION. ALTHOUGH SITES WILL WORK WITH THE BULGARIANS IN ATTEMPTING TO PLACE THE EXHIBITION IN SPECIFIC DESIRED LOCATIONS, SITES CANNOT GUARANTEE BOOKINGS AT ANY ONE INSTITUTION."

C. "THE EXHIBITION WILL INCLUDE APPROXIMATELY 502 OBJECTS OF GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE, CLAY, STONE UTENSILS, ORNAMENTS, ARMS, PLASTIC ART, CERAMICS. THE OBJECTS IN THE EXHIBITION HAVE BEEN PHOTOGRAPHED. THE BULGARIANS WILL PROVIDE SOME OF THESE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR PUBLICITY TO SITES."

D. "THE EXHIBITION WILL BE INSURED BY SITES DURING TRANSATLANTIC SHIPMENT TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES AND DURING THE U.S. TOUR UNLESS THE TOTAL VALUE EXCEEDS 3 MILLION DOLLARS. PLEASE FORWARD A TOTAL INSURANCE VALUATION FOR THE EXHIBITION."

E. "THE BULGARIANS MAY PROVIDE A TRAVELING CURATOR, BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPENSES OF THIS CURATOR ARE NOT WITH SITES."

F. THE BULGARIANS WILL ASSUME THE EXPENSES OF PREPARATION, PACKING (SUBJECT TO SITES' APPROVAL), AND AIR SHIPMENT OF THE EXHIBITION TO THE UNITED STATES. SITES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOOKINGS, SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS AND COSTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES."

G. "THE BULGARIANS WILL PROVIDE MATERIAL FOR CONSERVATION (SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITION REPORTS, CHECKLISTS) AND SITES WILL SEE THAT THE BULGARIANS RECEIVE UP-TO-DATE REPORTS ON THE CONDITION OF THE EXHIBITION. IF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE BULGARIANS REQUIRE THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AT THE CONDITION REPORTING IN EACH LOCATION, THIS MUST BE ARRANGED BY THEM."

H. "SITES WILL SEND A STAFF REPRESENTATIVE TO INSPECT THE EXHIBITION AND CRATES BEFORE A LOAN AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. THE LOAN AGREEMENT WILL THEN BE DRAWN UP BETWEEN THE

BULGARIAN OFFICIALS AND THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. IN THE AGREEMENT ALL FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL QUESTIONS ARE DEALT WITH, QUESTIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY ARE RESOLVED."

I. "THE BULGARIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS OF A CATALOGUE FOR THE EXHIBITION. THE BULGARIANS WILL PROVIDE ALL TEXT AND PHOTO MATERIAL FOR THE CATALOGUE SUBJECT TO THE SMITHSONIAN'S CURATORIAL REVIEW. CATALOGUES COULD BE PRINTED IN THE U.S. AT THE BULGARIAN EXPENSE. THE BRITISH CATALOGUE COULD BE ADAPTED FOR OUR USE. THERE WILL BE NO REIMBURSEMENT FOR CATALOGUES PROVIDED TO SITES FOR THE U.S. TOUR. EACH BOOKING INSTITUTION WILL RECEIVE AN ALLOTMENT OF CATALOGUES WITH A SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE BUT WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO RETURN ANY FUNDS TO SITES OR TO THE BULGARIANS."

J. "THE BULGARIANS WILL COOPERATE WITH SITES IN DEVELOPING AND PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR THE UNITED STATES TOUR."

K. "SITES WILL PROVIDE A SMITHSONIAN OR RECOMMENDED EXPERT CONSERVATOR TO THE U.S. MUSEUMS IF THE CONDITION OF ARTIFACTS CHANGES DURING THE U.S. TOUR."

L. "AT THE END OF THE TOUR, THE EXHIBITION WILL BE RETURNED (AFTER A FINAL CONDITION REPORT IS MADE) TO THE LOCATION DESIGNATED BY THE BULGARIANS."

2. BULGARIANS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO REPLY BY MARCH 14. IF RESPONSE INDICATES FINAL AGREEMENT POSSIBLE, SMITHSONIAN WILL THEN CONSIDER SENDING ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO VIEW EXHIBIT. KISSINGER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 SOFIA 2335, 75 STATE 282580  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by McShalBA>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971014  
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**TAGS:** OEXC, BU  
**To:** SOFIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006